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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Effects of Drought on Bulgarian Agriculture

PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

DATE DISTR 7 JAN 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The dryness of the preceding season has greatly reduced the yield of Bulgarian agriculture. The cold (in addition to its dryness), has seriously threatened the harvest of 1953.
2. Productivity in the cooperatives is very low, in view of the low pay of agricultural laborers. They are paid only two or three levas a day, plus a kilc of bread. Such conditions naturally favor absenteeism. The authorities have now decided to punish absences by relatively severe sentences, such as five to ten days of compulsory free labor.
3. A further agricultural difficulty is now developing. Most of the tractors supplied by the USSR cannot be used. Though they are described as new, they have usually had several years of service in the Soviet kolkhozes before they are sent to Bulgaria. Getting any service at all out of them is complicated by the fact that there is no way of supplying spare parts in Bulgaria. The only thing to do is to send to the USSR for spare parts. Until the parts can be sent back from some Soviet warehouse or factory (which may be a matter of months) the Soviet tractors cannot be used at all.

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